



Climate Action Program

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Program Chair: Gregg Albright

Steering
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# California Department of Transportation Climate Action Program: Moving Forward

Strategy and Leadership for Energy Efficient and Resilient Transportation

## Purpose:

The Climate Action Program is an interdisciplinary effort intended to promote, facilitate, and coordinate implementation of climate change strategies and related activities within the Department and with partner agencies. The program focuses on both greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and adaptation measures. The overall objective is to encourage innovative ways to balance progressive program delivery within the context of responsible environmental stewardship in a way that:

1) allows transportation strategies, plans, and projects as a whole to contribute to the State's GHG emission reduction plan, 2) provides guidelines, procedures, performance measures, and a quantifiable set of reporting protocols to monitor GHG footprints, 3) considers potential impact of climate variability on transportation system and development of risk assessment for long lasting transportation investments, and 4) advances applied research to support climate change knowledge base in transportation.

The Climate Action Program serves as a resource for technical assistance, training, information exchange, and partnership-building opportunities.

#### Primary Objectives:

- Build partnerships and work with partner agencies and interagency committees on climate policy and implementation.
- Implement the Departmental Director's Policy DP 23-R1 on Climate Change.
- Respond to legislative requirements (AB 32: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and other state and federal climate laws), Air Resources Board (ARB) Scoping Plan, Climate Action Team (CAT), Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and the Administration's climate change objectives.
- Work with the California Resources Agency and stakeholders to develop risk assessment and the state infrastructure adaptation plan.
- Coordinate the Department's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- Implement 3-year interdisciplinary applied research plans and educational program.

#### Background:

In June 2007, Director Will Kempton issued Director's Policy on Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Climate Change, outlining the Department's policy and program roles and responsibilities. With this new level of commitment to environmental stewardship, the Department is making the climate change consideration an integrated part of its business operations. The policy is preceded by the Governor's Executive Order S-3-05, establishing climate change emission reduction targets and CAT, AB 32 which sets forward a process and timetable for reducing and reporting GHG emissions, and SB 375, requiring regional governments to include



sustainability and GHG reduction strategies in regional planning with specified targets.

The Department's Climate Action Program is a collaborative effort working with Divisions and districts, ARB, CAT, SGC, and other stakeholders to advance climate change issues in transportation. The Department's Climate Action Program Report, December 2006, outlines early transportation strategies that contribute to GHG emission reduction and greening goals in the State. One of the aims of the Climate Action Program is to make transportation a proving ground, demonstrating that transportation efficiency and greening measures have multiple benefits, from lower congestion to lower GHG production with potential economic gains and opportunity for creating new markets.

#### **Program Oversight:**

The Director provides stewardship and overall direction for the Climate Action Program. The program is under the purview of the Director's Office and the Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs. The Management Steering Committee oversees the work of the Program with support from the Technical Working Group.

- Management Steering Committee (MSC): Consists of the Chief Deputy Director; Deputy Directors for Planning and Modal Programs, Project Delivery, Maintenance and Operations, Finance; District 4 Director; Chiefs, Division of Transportation Planning, Equipment, Environmental Analysis, Budgets; and project managers for the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan, Proposition 1B, and Performance Measures. Other members from districts and Divisions will be added per Committee's recommendation. The Management Steering Committee meets quarterly or as needed.
- Technical Working Group: Consists of representatives from various functions: Resource Conservation, Environmental Analysis, Traffic Operations, Maintenance, Equipment, Transportation Planning, Research and Innovation, and Engineering Services. Additional districts or headquarters Divisions and staff may participate in the technical group. The Technical Working group meets as needed to respond to MSC direction.

#### Resources:

This Charter is evolving and will be updated as needed. The Financial Board and the Steering Committee will determine the level of resources needed to support the Climate Action Program.

#### **Short Term Products**

Table "A" shows planned short-term product delivery and estimated timetable. The list is subject to change based on changes in priority and workload.

# Contact Information

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Steering Committee Members: October 2007

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MARK J. BESIO Deputy Director External Affairs



### Table A

Short Term Products	Timetable (estimated)
Progress report and briefing the Director.	Quarterly / more frequently as needed
Update the Climate Action Plan	April 09
Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan for Transportation.	March 09
Assess impact of Sea Level Rise in Bay Area.	September 09
Climate Registry: Annual GHG Emission Reporting	November 08
Develop inventory of greening practices and potential GHG savings for the Department (all programs).	March 09
Planning Guide: technical guidance on how to incorporate GHG emission factors into transportation planning and project development.	November 09
Projected GHG/greening impact of the Goods Movement Action Plan.	March 09
Three-year training and educational plan concerning climate change and GHG emission reduction measures.	January 09
CAT Cement Subgroup report.	TBD
Energy Conservation Plan status report.	March 09
Fleet Efficiency Report.	March 09
Technical Studies -develop a 3-year plan on interagency or inhouse/consultant technical studies.	February 09
Transportation Modeling: GHG emission factor -travel demand, Cal B/C.	February 09
District/Region Climate Workshops	February – June 09